

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.
Claims 1-15 are pending.

The present application pertains to a method and device for clamping rotationally symmetrical bodies. An exemplary device of Fig. 6 includes tie rod 64 for providing a tensile force to a body to be clamped, supporting element 72 supported in a spring-loaded manner for providing a spring force to the body to be clamped counteracting the tensile force, and centering device 76 for centering the body to be clamped. As illustrated in the exemplary embodiments of Figs. 6 and 7, centering device 76 is arranged radially outward of supporting element 72. However, the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments.

Applicants' Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims. Claim 1 recites a method of clamping a rotationally symmetrical body which includes, among other features, pulling the body by means of a tensile force against a supporting element, wherein the supporting element is acted upon with a spring force which is opposed to the tensile force; and clamping the body while the tensile force pulls the body, wherein the body is centered by a centering device which is arranged radially outward of said supporting element.

Claim 7 recites a device for clamping a rotationally symmetrical body, and comprises, among other features, a tie rod mounted in the device in such a way that it can act on the body; a supporting element, against which the body to be clamped can be pulled by means of the tie rod, wherein the supporting element is supported in a spring-loaded manner, the spring force counteracting the tensile force, wherein a

centering device for centering the body to be clamped is provided radially outward of said supporting element.

The Official Action sets forth a rejection of independent Claims 1 and 7 as being anticipated by Morawski. Fig. 1 of this patent discloses a collet chuck for tapered workpieces including sleeve 19 in which is arranged shaft 22, collet sleeve 38 having fingers 44 which cooperate with bushing 50 to expand radially outward in response to reciprocation of shaft 22 so as to bear against the workpiece, and spring-biased slides 60 and 62 that center the workpiece.

In the rejection, the Examiner appears to interpret the slides 60 and 62 of Morawski as constituting a supporting element, and sleeve 19 and bushing 50 as constituting a centering element. However, assuming for the sake of discussion that the Examiner's interpretation were accurate, it is quite clear from the figures of Morawski that sleeve 19 and bushing 50 are not radially outward of slides 60 and 62.

Accordingly, Morawski does not disclose Applicants' Claim 1 combination wherein a body is centered by a centering device which is arranged radially outward of a supporting element. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Morawski, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Morawski is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, consistent with the preceding discussion, Morawski does not disclose Applicants' Claim 7 combination wherein a centering device for centering a body to be clamped is provided radially outward of a supporting element. Claim 7 is therefore allowable over Morawski, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 as being anticipated by Morawski is respectfully requested.

The Official Action also sets forth a rejection of independent Claims 1 and 7 as being anticipated by Garrison. Fig. 1 of the Garrison patent discloses an automatic chuck including a shedder 43 which is moved rearwardly when a workpiece is moved rearwardly against shedder pin elements 54, and a rod 5 which, when drawn rearwardly, cause fingers 35 mounted on sleeve 33 to project through slots within guide 20 so as to engage the workpiece.

In the rejection, the Examiner appears to interpret guide 20 and shedder pin elements 54 of Garrison as constituting a supporting element, and sleeve 33 as constituting a centering element. However, assuming for the sake of discussion that the Examiner's interpretation is accurate, it is quite clear from the figures of Garrison that sleeve 33 is not radially outward of guide 20 and shedder pin elements 54.

Accordingly, Garrison does not disclose Applicants' Claim 1 combination wherein a body is centered by a centering device which is arranged radially outward of a supporting element. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Garrison, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Garrison is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Garrison does not disclose a centering device for centering a body to be clamped provided radially outward of a supporting element, as recited in Applicants' amended Claim 7 combination. Claim 7 is therefore allowable over Garrison, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 as being anticipated by Garrison is respectfully requested.

The Official Action also sets forth a rejection of independent Claims 1 and 7 as being anticipated by Kempton. Fig. 1 of the Kempton patent discloses a workholder which employs a plurality of clamping members 14.

In the rejection, the Examiner appears to interpret clamping members 14 of Kempton as constituting a supporting element. However, it is quite clear that Kempton does not disclose a centering device radially outward of clamping members 14.

Accordingly, Kempton does not disclose a body centered by a centering device which is arranged radially outward of a supporting element, as recited in amended Claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Kempton, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Kempton is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Kempton does not disclose a centering device for centering a body to be clamped provided radially outward of a supporting element, as recited in Applicants' amended Claim 7 combination. Claim 7 is therefore allowable over Kempton, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 as being anticipated by Kempton is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Accordingly, no further discussion of the dependent claims is needed at this time.

New claims 14 and 15 recite the patentably distinguishing feature of the centering device being disk-shaped, and are both allowable for at least this additional reason.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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